

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for initiating an online meeting over a data network between a host  
5 party with a first computer and an attendee party with a second computer,  
where a phone connection exists over a telephone network between a first  
phone of the host party and a second phone of the attendee party, the method  
comprising:  
sending a start meeting message over the data network to a data center;  
10 receiving a meeting identification from the data center;  
storing the meeting identification in a first device, which is coupled to both the  
first phone and the first computer; and  
transmitting the meeting identification from the first device over the telephone  
network to a second device, which is coupled to both the second phone  
15 and the second computer.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving the meeting identification into the second device; and  
using the second device to send a join meeting message over the data network  
20 to the data center.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone network comprises a public  
switched telephone network.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data network comprises an Internet.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
encoding the meeting identification by the first device prior to transmitting the  
meeting identification over the telephone network to the second device.

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